

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the data sets used in the automatic adjustment of the demand quantities in step b) include restrictions with respect to at least one of the production sites and the suppliers.
3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that the demand quantities in step a) are determined by defining a first demand forecast for a first forecast time period, determining a second demand forecast for a second forecast time period by~~ wherein the updated demand quantities are determined from the adjusted demand quantities for the first period using stochastic processes ~~derived from the first forecast, and determining the demand quantities according to predefined algorithms which evaluate at least one of the first and the second demand forecasts.~~
4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the automatic adjustment in step b) includes a correction of the demand quantities so as to match the demand quantities to at least one of the manufacturing capacities and the supplier capacities.
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the generating of the updated demand ~~numbers~~ quantities for the predefined second time period includes evaluating daily assumptions.
7. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the automatic allocation of the portion of the adjusted, updated demand quantities to the production sites includes compiling daily schedules for the production sites.
8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 6, characterized in that the automatic

allocation of the portion of the adjusted updated demand quantities to the production sites includes breaking up the products specified in the daily assumptions into their modules.

9. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that the updated demand quantities include information about an ~~significant~~ a predetermined equipment feature of the product products.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that, in step (d), the restrictions of the production sites include at least one of capacity limitations, work schedule models and permanent staffing.

12. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the dealers include domestic market dealers and importers.

13. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the distribution channels are subdivided into distribution sub-channels.

14. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the generating of the updated demand quantities is based on at least one of quantitative evaluations of process designs, assessments of strategies, times for freezing orders, delivery times, delivery reliability, utilization of transportation means and costs.

15. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that, in step (c), the evaluating is performed using data obtained data from databases of real systems.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) Simulation system according to claim 46 29, characterized in that the simulation system includes interfaces to databases of real systems.

18. (currently amended) Computer program product with a computer-readable storage medium for storing a program which enables a computer, after the program is loaded into the memory of the computer, to execute the a process for simulating order processing processes for producing the a product available in a plurality of versions or a plurality of selectable features, wherein the process comprises the steps: according to claim 22

a) entering into a data processing device demand quantities for at least one class of the product for at least one predefined first forecast period of time, wherein the demand quantities specify at least one of a version and a feature of the product;

b) automatically adjusting, through use of a computer program installed on a data processing device, the demand quantities with predefined datasets representative of at least one of manufacturing capacities and supplier capacities, and determining at least one of approved firm order allocations and approved modular allocations;

c) generating updated demand quantities for a predefined second forecast time period by evaluating the adjusted demand quantities for the first period and at least one of the approved firm order allocations, the approved modular allocations and simulated buyer orders newly received by dealers;

d) adjusting the updated demand quantities with respect to restrictions of at least one of production sites and suppliers, and automatically allocating at least a portion of the adjusted, updated demand quantities to the production sites;

e) simulating at least one of production and supply for the production based on the allocation in step d);

f) automatically determining distribution channels and simulating distribution of finished products from the production sites to delivery locations;

g) matching of the adjusted, updated demand quantities with at least one of an actual customer order and an actual dealer specification of a finished product, wherein the at least one of the actual customer order and the actual dealer specification is assigned to a matching, adjusted, updated demand quantity not yet assigned to an actual customer order or an actual dealer specification;

h) generating assumption data representative of at least the adjusted, updated demand quantities assigned to the at least one actual customer order and actual dealer specification; and

i) outputting the assumption data to the production sites.

19. (currently amended) Computer-readable storage medium for storing a program which enables a computer, after the program is loaded into memory of the computer, to execute a process for simulating order processing processes used for producing a the product available in a plurality of versions or a plurality of selectable features, wherein the process comprises the steps: according-to-claim-22

a) entering into a data processing device demand quantities for at least one class of the product for at least one predefined first forecast period of time, wherein the demand quantities specify at least one of a version and a feature of the product;

b) automatically adjusting, through use of a computer program installed on a data processing device, the demand quantities with predefined datasets representative of at least one of manufacturing capacities and supplier capacities, and determining at least one of approved firm order allocations and approved modular allocations;

c) generating updated demand quantities for a predefined second forecast time period by evaluating the adjusted demand quantities for the first period and at least one

of the approved firm order allocations, the approved modular allocations and simulated buyer orders newly received by dealers;

d) adjusting the updated demand quantities with respect to restrictions of at least one of production sites and suppliers, and automatically allocating at least a portion of the adjusted, updated demand quantities to the production sites;

e) simulating at least one of production and supply for the production based on the allocation in step d);

f) automatically determining distribution channels and simulating distribution of finished products from the production sites to delivery locations;

g) matching of the updated demand quantities with at least one of an actual customer order and an actual dealer specification of a finished product, wherein the at least one of the actual customer order and the actual dealer specification is assigned to a matching, adjusted, updated demand quantity not yet assigned to an actual customer order or an actual dealer specification;

h) generating assumption data representative of at least the adjusted, updated demand quantities assigned to the at least one actual customer order and actual dealer specification; and

i) outputting the assumption data to the production sites.

Claims 20-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) Method for simulating order processing processes used for producing a product available in a plurality of versions or a plurality of selectable features comprising the steps:

a) entering into a data processing device demand quantities for at least one class of the product for at least one predefined first forecast period of time, wherein the demand quantities specify at least one of a version and a feature of the product;

b) automatically adjusting, through use of a computer program installed on a data processing device, the demand quantities with predefined datasets representative of at least one of manufacturing capacities and supplier capacities, and determining at least one of approved firm order allocations and approved modular allocations;

c) generating updated demand quantities for the a predefined second forecast time period by evaluating the adjusted demand quantities for the first period and at least one of the approved firm order allocations, the approved modular allocations and simulated buyer orders newly received by dealers;

d) adjusting the updated demand quantities with respect to restrictions of at least one of production sites and suppliers, and automatically allocating at least a portion of the adjusted, updated demand quantities to the production sites;

e) simulating at least one of production and supply for the production based on the allocation in step d);

f) automatically determining distribution channels and simulating distribution of finished products from the production sites to delivery locations;

g) ~~generating assumption data representative of a simulated~~ matching of the adjusted, updated demand quantities with at least one of an actual customer orders order and an actual dealer specifications specification of the a finished products product, wherein the at least one of the actual customer order and the actual dealer specification is assigned to a matching, adjusted, updated demand quantity not yet assigned to an actual customer order or an actual dealer specification;

h) generating assumption data representative of at least the adjusted, updated demand quantities assigned to the at least one actual customer order and actual dealer specification; and

h) i) outputting the assumption data to the production sites.

23. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, where the product is a motor vehicle.

24. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22, where the assumption data comprises freeze point data, where a freeze point is a latest possible date when a change to the at least one of the actual customer orders order and the actual dealer ~~specifications~~ specification is insertable in a production process.

25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended) Method according to claim ~~22~~ 25, wherein the first forecast time period is a year of sales, and the second forecast time period is three months and the predefined time period is a delivery week.

27. (previously presented) Method according to claim 14, wherein the assessments of strategies include managing disruptions.

28. (previously presented) Method according to claim 15, wherein the databases of real systems include databases of at least one of the dealers and production sites.

29. (currently amended) A simulation system for simulating order processing processes used for producing a product available in a plurality of versions or a plurality of selectable features, the system comprising:

a forecast module, a production module, a distribution module and an assumption module under control of a computer program implemented on a computer system,

wherein the forecast module is for:

receiving demand quantities for at least one class of the product for at least one predefined first period of time, wherein the demand quantities specify at least one of a version and a feature of the product;

automatically adjusting the demand quantities with predefined datasets representative of at least one of manufacturing capacities and supplier capacities, and determining at least one of approved firm order allocations and approved modular allocations;

generating updated demand quantities for the a predefined second time period by evaluating the adjusted demand quantities for the first period and at least one of the approved firm order allocations, the approved modular allocations and simulated buyer orders newly received by dealers; and

adjusting the updated demand quantities with respect to restrictions of at least one of production sites and suppliers, and automatically allocating at least a portion of the adjusted, updated demand quantities to the production sites;

wherein the production module is for simulating at least one of production and supply for the production based on the allocating performed in the forecast module;

wherein the distribution module is for automatically determining distribution channels and simulating distribution of finished products from the production sites to delivery locations; and

wherein the assumption module is for

~~generating assumption data representative of a simulated matching of the~~
adjusted, updated demand quantities with at least one of an actual customer orders order and an actual dealer specifications specification of the a finished products

product, wherein the at least one of the actual customer order and the actual dealer specification is assigned to a matching, adjusted, updated demand quantity not yet assigned to an actual customer order or an actual dealer specification;

generating assumption data representative of at least the adjusted, updated demand quantities assigned to the at least one actual customer order and actual dealer specification; and

outputting the assumption data to the production sites.

30. (currently amended) Simulation system according to claim 17, wherein the databases of real systems includes include databases of at least one of the dealers and production sites.

31. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the process for simulating order processing processes is for producing a motor vehicle.

32. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the process for simulating order processing processes is for producing a motor vehicle.

33. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the matching of step g) further comprises:

comparing the at least one of the actual customer order and the actual dealer specification, in the reverse order that the dealers receive the at least one of the actual customer order and the actual dealer specification, with the adjusted, updated demand quantities not yet assigned to an actual customer order or an actual dealer specification.